various steps are being taken to improve the profitability of SAIL Plants/ Units which are as under:

- Intensive cost control drive.
- Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).
- Market oriented product-mix.
- Restriction on fresh investment proposals.
- Financial/Business restructuring of SAIL was approved by the Government of India in February, 2000 to improve profitability and enhance the resource availability.

Drug scam at Busan

2509. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of our athletes tested positive for Nandrolone, at the Busan Asian Games, concluded recently;

(b) if so, what are the complete details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against the officials and doctors for such lapses and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, one of our athletes, namely, Sushree Sunita Rani, who won one Gold Medal and one Bronze Medal in the Busan Asian Games-2002, tested positive for use of 'Nandrolone'.

(c) Government has constituted a High Level Committee, under the Chairmanship of former Secretary (Youth Affairs and Sports), Shri S.S. Sharma, to inquire into the circumstances responsible for and leading to the above-said incident. The Committee has also been asked to go into the respective role of the Amateur Athletic Federatiion of India (AAFI), Sports Authority of India (SAI), manager and the accompanying coach and to suggest measures which could have been taken to avoid such a situation, ascribe responsibility, wherever possible, and recommend measures to prevent recurrence of such instances. The Committee has

been asked to submit its report in 3 months. Further action will be considered after the Committee submits its report.

Preparations for Afro-Asian and Olympic Games

†2510. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the present status of preparations for Olympic and Afro-Asian games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): The preparation for major multi-disciplinary events, Olympic Games and Afro-Asian Games, is an on-going process. However, in the present sports management set up—at the international, as well as, the national level-promotion of sports, largely, falls in the domain of the Sports Federations.

Insofar as Government of India is concerned, in order to prepare the Indian teams for participation in major international events, such as, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Afro-Asian Games and Olympic Games, Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) are finalized in consultation with concerned National Sports Federations, former-international sportspersons and training method experts. Besides, the probables are provided with required scientific and equipment support, coaching by Indian and foreign coaches in Coaching Camps and assistance to participate in international tournaments.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to Promising Sportspersons and supporting personnel, assistance is provided to promising sportspersons for training and participation in tournaments abroad, for purchase of equipment for scientific support and for training and participation in tournaments in the country. The assistance given under this scheme is aimed at winning medals in major multi-disciplinary events.

Adolescent population in India

2511. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the WHO reports, the country has around 260 million adolescents, which is 23 per cent of the population;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.